

II. REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 21, 2007, the period in which to respond has been extended to and including January 21, 2008 by the accompanying petition for a retroactive two-month extension of time. In the subject Office Action: (1) The numbering of the claims was objected to; (2) Claims 1-6 and 8-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,388,208 (KHANI et al.); and, (3) Claims 8 and 14 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

By the present amendment, applicants have: (1) amended Claims 5-19; and, (3) added new Claim 20. Reconsideration of this application and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

In the subject Office action, the examiner rejected Claims 1-6 and 8-19 as anticipated by KIANI. Applicants respectfully disagree and believe that the Examiner has misinterpreted KIANI in an overly broad manner. KIANI discloses a variety of via constructions for use in differential signalling. However, it utilizes and retains a pair of differential signal conductive segments along with an associated conductive ground segment within the constraints of a single via. It does not utilize an arrangement of vias, where each, single vias is dedicated to either a differential signal or an associated ground path.

As such, Claim 1 does not read on KIANI for Claim 1 calls for each via “triad” to contain a pair (“two”) and a “single” ground via, meaning that each such “via triad” includes three distinct and separate vias. This is not the case with KIANI, where runs its differential signal paths and the ground path associated with each such differential signal pair in the same (and “single”) via! Applicants utilize the circuit board for their triad arrangement, while KIANI utilizes only a single via for its arrangement. As such, there can be no anticipation of independent claim 1 by KIANI, for KIANI, does not contain each and every element recited in the Claims as required by the MPEP. Accordingly, the allowance of independent Claim 1 and Claims 2- 9 which depend therefrom, is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of original (renumbered by the Examiner) dependent Claim 14 which recites that there is a large connecting conductive portion, which is not shown or suggested by KIANI. Claim 14 has been amended to recite one specific type of structure the large connecting portions may take. Accordingly, independent Claim 10 and Claims 11-16, which depend therefrom are in condition for immediate allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The Examiner did not identify which FIG. In KIANI he relies upon in his anticipation rejection of independent Claim 17, but he did identify the relevant reference numerals so applicants believe the Examiner relies upon FIG. 12D in his rejection. The Examiner asserts that FIG. 12D anticipates Claim 17. It does not for it falls to disclose each and every element recited in the claim. For example, the Examiner asserts that it shows conductive traces with enlarged exit portions that extend toward each other (Office action, Page 5, second paragraph). To the contrary, there are no "enlarged area" in each of the exit portions, nor do the exit portions in FIG. 123D of KIANI even remotely "extend toward each other from the vias. Rather the exit portions of KIANI exit in the same direction away from their vias but from the same sides of the vias so that they do not extend toward each other as claimed. Accordingly, the allowance of independent Claim 17 and claims 18-19 which depend therefrom is respectfully requested..

Applicants have added new Claim 20, which is patterned after a combination of original Claims 1 and 8, which includes the elements of an annular collar extending for less than 360 degrees. Both of these elements were indicated as allowable subject matter by the Examiner, and hence, new Claim 20 is in condition for immediate allowance, which is respectfully requested.

A favorable response is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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